



Serving It Up, A la Carte!

Rural School Answers to Big Transition Questions

Activity #1

- ▶ The 1st Annual Bronze Chef Arizona Competition, featuring renowned Chef Bobby Fillet is upon us!

BUT.....

- ▶ Budget cuts have left us penniless and table-less. We need your help!



▶ 2

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Your mission

- ▶ Your mission, if you choose to accept it (or even if you don't), is to help build dining tables for the competition.



- ▶ Rules: Use materials to build a table structure that holds 1 pound of weight. You will have 10 minutes to complete your model table.

Guidance will be provided upon request, but due to a high call volume, your wait time will be approximately 11 minutes to speak to a competition representative. We value your support

▶ 3

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Your time begins.....

NOW!



▶ 4

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Time's up!

► **Please stop working on your tables. The dining table monitoring crew is almost here!**



► 5

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Self Audit

- Evaluate your table model on a scale of 1-10 (10 being best) as far as appearance and final product.

1-3 Falls Far Below

4-7 Minimal Compliance

8-10 Best Practices



► 6

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Application.....

1. Share your obstacles (or challenges) with the group.
2. How did you creatively problem-solve your obstacles?
3. Do you feel that your group met Best Practices, Minimal Compliance, or Falls Far Below?

► 7

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Our Story....

- Santa Cruz Valley Union High School
 - Eloy, Arizona
 - Small Student Population
 - Tiny Budget
 - Language Barriers/Citizenship Barriers
 - In Monitoring Year
 - Rural, Limited Resources
 - "Doing what we have always done."



► 8

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From Cook to Chef: Our Learning Curve



- ▶ Site Visit and Self Audits—now what??
- ▶ STMP Team and 100% Compliance
- ▶ Needs Assessment—activities and assessments
- ▶ Changing our thinking about transition plans.....
 - Problem Solving Making the Impossible, Possible
 - Creative Thinking Focus
 - Realistic Planning Small Bites, Big Successes

▶ 9

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Our Answers

▶ Problem Solving:

- ▶ Are WE making this an impossible task?
- ▶ How can we build a “transition menu” with resources in hand?
- ▶ What are our resources?
- ▶ If we don't know, who might?



▶ 10

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Creative Thinking

- ▶ How can we think “outside the box” with our transition menu?
- ▶ How can we expand our resources at hand?
- ▶ How can we gain the buy-in of stakeholders in our school and community?



▶ 11

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Realistic Planning

- ▶ How can I possibly set into motion a plan that is realistic for my classroom, school, and/or community?
- ▶ What kind of plan would ensure my personal motivation for a good follow-through?
- ▶ What kind of plan would ignite enthusiasm with the students and contribute to postsecondary outcomes?



▶ 12

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Impossible to Possible

- ▶ What kind of plan would meet the needs of many students in a single delivery?
- ▶ How might I be able to collect data easily and efficiently?



▶ 13

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Focus

- ▶ Take a deep breath and focus.....
- ▶ What activities do I enjoy?
- ▶ What activities does my team enjoy?
- ▶ What are the needs of the school or the community?



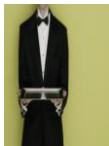
▶ 14

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Small Bites.....Big Successes

Answering these "Big Transition Questions" may lead you to focus projects, as it did our team.

- ▶ If you don't have the resources for published or tuitioned transition programs, you have to serve it up a la carte with focus projects!



▶ 15

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What are Focus Projects?

...are single, larger-scale projects that meet the needs of many students' transition activities.

They allow students to contribute small personal strengths to a whole project that is exciting, motivating, enthusiastic, and fun.

If you don't have the resources for published or tuitioned transition programs, you have to serve it up a la carte with focus projects!



▶ 16

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How do I Create a Focus Project?

1. Gather information about your staff (hobbies, strengths, passions, backgrounds).
2. Gather information about your students. This is the perfect time to put those transition assessments to use!
3. Gather information about your school's or community's needs. Ask your students to create a needs assessment for staff, students, and parents.

► 17

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How do I Create a Focus Project, cont.

4. Assign roles in the data collection and analysis as a transition activity. (Great for math, problem-solving goals!) Determine the greatest needs of the school or community.
5. Get staff on board with the top three ideas and have staff decide which project is the most realistic, interesting, and can be completed start to finish in 1 year.



► 18

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How do I Create a Focus Project, cont.

6. Assign roles for planning, presenting, writing, implementation, recording, analysis, and other roles as they might apply.
7. Begin your project with consistent timelines and follow through from start to finish.
8. Have Fun! Involve the students, community, and parents! Share your successes with others!



► 19

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More than a Transition Plan

Make the transition plan more than a plan. Make it a project!!

► 20

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Our Focus Project 2010-2011

- ▶ School Need Identified: Decreased enrollment caused a need for school advertising.
- ▶ Focus Project: Create a Feature Film that can be referenced on school advertising and can be presented to the community.
- ▶ Product: "Transition in Flight"



▶ 21

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Transition Activities Checklist for "Transition in Flight"

- ▶ Needs Assessment: all students participating in discussion in resource classes.
- ▶ Data Analysis: math teacher goal, special education teacher goal, military bound goal
- ▶ Script-writing: acting bound goal, creative writing goal, law enforcement goal
- ▶ Timelines and Planning: law enforcement goal, massage therapy goal, elementary teacher goal
- ▶ Community Outreach: counselor goal, child psychologist goal, CNA goal, nursing goal
- ▶ Film Crew: game design goal, photography goal
- ▶ Costumes and Props: day programs and sheltered workshop goals, fashion design goals
- ▶ Director: medical provider goals, child psychologist goal, law enforcement goals
- ▶ Editing: game design goals, computer programming goals
- ▶ Presenting: interpreter goals, day programs and sheltered workshop goals

▶ 22

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Transition in Flight...



Enjoy our Feature Film

▶ 23

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Focus Project--Plated and Served

- ▶ Write it into the Transition Plan!
- ▶ Give the students a copy of the finished product for their personal portfolios!
- ▶ Make the transition plan more than just an IEP requirement. *Bring life to it. Make it breath. Make it grow. Color it and shape it.*



▶ 24

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Let's revisit those dining table models...

The Dining Table Monitoring Crew has arrived!

Will your models hold 1 pound of weight?

Let's test your self audit rating!

Appearance?

Integrity?

Functionality?



► 25

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Application

Transition plans must meet the letter of the law, but should also be able to hold the weight of Best Practices.

Assessments should be meaningful. Activities should be faithfully carried out and provide real-life experiences and information. The course of study should support the goal and lead to the final outcome.



► 26

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It's more than a Plan, It's a Project!

Do your transition plans hold the weight of student outcomes?

Do your transition plans hold the weight of a creative and sincere effort?

Do your transition plans hold the weight of compliance as well as purpose?



► 27

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Any Questions?

- Questions?
- Let's discuss simple classroom focus projects.
- Let's discuss school-wide projects.
- Let's discuss community projects.

► 28

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Conclusion

Creative focus projects are the rural district's answer to big transition questions.

For compliance with purpose,

serve it up, a la carte!

